

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement of allowable subject matter contained in claims 3-4 and 6-10.

Claims 1, 5, 11-12, and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lakshmikumaran (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,055). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the Lakshmikumaran et al. reference fails to disclose (or suggest) a head "wherein each of said grooves has a width which is greater than or equal to a width of an entire wall separating said grooves on both sides of each said read/write gap line, and a depth which is greater than or equal to said width of said grooves."

One example of such a head for a magnetic tape is disclosed in Applicant's Figures 2 and 5, which show a depth of a groove, "d", which is greater than or equal to a width of the groove, "w", which is greater than or equal to a width of an entire wall separating said grooves, "g" ($d \geq w \geq g$).

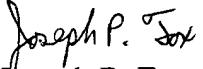
In contrast, the head in the Lakshmikumaran et al. reference does not have this dimensional relationship as noted by the Examiner at page 4 of the Office Action (Paper No. 7). The claims have been amended to more clearly recite this aspect of the invention, as urged by the Examiner. Since, Lakshmikumaran et al. merely discloses a depth of a groove, "d", which is greater than a width of the groove, "w", and a width of an entire wall separating the grooves, "g", which is larger than "w" ($d > g > w$), withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Further, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Lakshmikumaran et al. does not disclose a head for a magnetic tape wherein the grooves have a width which is greater than an entire width of a wall separating the grooves. For all of these reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 12 and associated dependent claims 3-11 and 14-15.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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